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GROSS MARGARET A
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ACTION FA-12
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: KS, US
SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL BRIBERY HEARINGS
REF: A) SEOUL 8945; B) STATE 254202

1. KOREAN PRESS REPORTING OF HOUSE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HEARINGS HAS CONTINUED TO FILTER TESTIMONY CAREFULLY, AND COVERAGE DECLINED IN QUANTITY FOLLOWING FIRST DAYS. VERNACULAR PRESS AND RADIO CONTINUE TO REPORT IN MORE DETAIL THAN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS.

2. WEEKEND REPORTING CARRIED TESTIMONY OF KIM HYONG-UK CALLING PAK TONG-SON HIS "KEY CONGRESSIONAL AIDE" AND DEPICTING PAK'S DISTRIBUTION OF $1,000 TO $5,000 BUNDLES TO CONGRESSMEN. ARTICLES ALSO REPORT BRIEFLY THE APPEARANCE OF RYU JAY SHIN WITH DOCUMENT DETAILING PAK'S CLAIMS OF INFLUENCING 150 PEOPLE IN CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION, (BUT A NUMBER OF DETAILS OF RYU'S TESTIMONY OMITTED.) INDICTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE HANNA, AND HIS PLEA OF INNOCENCE ALSO REPORTED. STATEMENT BY PETER WHITE AT CLOSE OF HEARINGS ALLUDED TO BRIEFLY IN KOREA TIMES BUT REPORTED MORE FULLY IN OTHER MEDIA,

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TOGETHER WITH STATEMENTS BY SENATORS BYRD AND GLENN, CRITICISING ROKG FOR FAILURE TO COOPERATE. LEE KEUN PAL TESTIMONY NOT REPORTED SO FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE.

3. OCTOBER 23 PRESS CARRIES REMARKS BY SPOKESMAN OF ROK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, DENOUNCING TESTIMONY AS LARGELY "HEARSAY". AND CLAIMING THAT "ANY WRONGDOING THAT IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN DONE WAS NOT DONE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE, APPROVAL OR COOPERATION OF OUR GOVERNMENT." SPOKESMAN CONTINUED "IT IS ONE THING TO ACCEPT THE WORD OF THE WITNESSES ABOUT WHAT THEY SAY AND DID THEMSELVES, AND QUITE ANOTHER TO LINK THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT TO THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, AS SOME OF THE WITNESSES HAVE DONE." HE COMMENTED: "WHAT LIES WOULD THE BETRAYERS OF THEIR HOME COUNTRY HESITATE TO TELL IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY?", AND ADDED THAT THE ROKG HAD SOUGHT TO COOPERATE WITH THE US AUTHORITIES "TO SETTLE THE

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SO-CALLED PARK TONG SUN AFFAIR AMICABLY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES".
4. IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS OCTOBER 25 OPPOSITION ASSEMBLYMAN HAN YONG-SU DEMANDED RESIGNATION OF KIM TONG-JO FROM BLUE HOUSE STAFF AND INQUIRED ABOUT DISPOSITION OF THE $9 MILLION PAK HAD RECEIVED.
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